It's Not Paradise Without You

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Two years since the events of Gates to Infinity, Maruki realizes he has not given Ivy, his partner who made his dream of the pokemon paradise come true, a proper date. Now, he plans on rushing in headfirst into the problem, as per usual, to hopefully fix that.

Status: complete

Published: 2023-09-12

Words: 11211

Original source: https://archiveofourown.org/works/50038477

Exported with the assistance of FicHub.net

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The sound of harsh winds blew loudly right before a large creature crashed down from the sky. The sand clouds from the impact recede just as quickly as it was kicked up to reveal what or who landed before us. It was the protector of the Glacial Palace and the Bittercold, Kyurem! Hydreigon, the voice of life given physical form, Ivy, a human turned Snivy who was brought here to save the world, and his partner, Maruki, a simple Oshawott couldn't even react in time to Kyurem's sudden arrival as cold winds gathered around him before he let out a mighty roar…

"**GLACIATE!**" He shouted as the winds blast forth from his mouth now as a single beam that makes a direct hit to Hydreigon, freezing him in an instant.

And with a single slam of his head, Hydreigon was shattered into millions of pieces by Kyurem, his form dispersing into clouds of rainbow dust as his physical body was destroyed.

"H-Hydreigon was-!" Maruki shouted in surprise but was too slow to react to his charge on Ivy who he struck him with his head like a battering ram.

The blow sending the much smaller snivy reeling and leaving his partner stuck in shock from the sudden events.

"Ivy! Run for it!" Maruki shouted as Ivy slowly tried to get up to no avail… He was crushed by the massive stomp of Kyurem's foot.

"Ivy!" Maruki shouted once more as Kyurem continued to crush his friend, grinding him again and again into the cold desert sands. Ivy's cries of pain growing quieter and quieter with each successive earth shattering stomp.

"Ivy… R-run… Ivy… Ugh…" Maruki pleaded as the sight made him sick to my stomach, watching this happen to his closest friend.

"Stop… please… stop… I'm begging you… please…" he continued

to plead.

Maruki looks to Ivy once more, beaten down, broken, blood clearly visible on the sand and on Kyurem's foot, nothing but an expression of pain on his face as a few of his broken bones jut out from Ivy. Yet he reaches out to him, he says something quietly as he does not have the strength to form words, yet Maruki can still tell what he said…

"Maruki… Get out of here…" Ivy pleaded.

This gave him just enough strength to will himself to move before frigid legendary dragon. Before he could finally commit to the last stomp needed to end Ivy's existence, Maruki reached out to his partner, Ivy who reached out in return. The shadow of Kyurem darkened his partner more and more as his death approached ever closer. He wasn't strong enough to stop him but even then he had to try. As he reached out to his partner he let out his last futile plead.

"STOP!" Maruki shouted as he awoke from my nightmare, sitting up quickly from him hay bed, beads of sweat rolling down his head.

It was morning and he was back in their cozy home in Paradise right next to Post Town. He pats himself all over, to see he was back to his regular self, now a samurott while breathing heavily as he tries to calm myself down. Damn nightmares… He looks towards his left to see Ivy's side of their now shared bed neat and tidy, barely a straw out of place, he always was a bit of a neat freak. The fact that the bed was empty and tidy like that told him enough, his partner probably woke up some time before him. He breathes out a sigh of relief as he finally calms down from his nightmare and the peace and quiet of his home returned... up until two people suddenly barged into our house.

"FREEZE! NOBODY MOVE! YOU'RE SURROUNDED!" Emolga and Dunsparce shouted in unison as the larger pokemon instinctively raised his arms up in surrender and yelped in surprise to their sudden intrusion.

"Wait… Maruki? What happened?" Emolga asked as they left their battle stance as we all calmed down once more.

“I should be asking you. You’re the ones who barged in here!” Maruki replied, his arms still in the air in surrender.

“Well, we heard you suddenly scream out in the morning while we were eating with Quagsire and thought you were like… being attacked… or something?” Dunsparce said awkwardly, now not really knowing what to do with the situation as the awkward tension increasing further.

“Sorry sorry, had a bit of a nightmare, is all…” Maruki apologized as he once again sighed out in relief and finally lowered his arms.

“… By the way, have you guys seen Ivy?” Maruki asked.

“Oh uh... he’s in Post Town, Swanna suddenly called him while he was out back in Paradise talking with the others about the festival.” Emolga replied as he scratched the back of his head.

“Uh… Either way, we’re just gonna go now… sorry about that whole thing earlier, haha…” Emolga said as he and Dunsparce awkwardly walked out. But a festival… Oh wait, now he remembers.

He properly gets up from the bed, shaking off some of the pieces of hay and grabbing a dark red bandana with his adventurer’s badge attached to it and wrapped it around his left arm, before finally going outside to see what was going on. The entirety of paradise was in a much more festive mood, streamers around the various stalls and shops we helped set up throughout sanctuary, as they also looked much more presentable than usual. Some mon’s from town even coming in to help as the kids ran around to play while all this went down. This was all part of a small celebration that him and Ivy came up with. The Paradise Founding Festival, as he called it. Which was, of course, dedicated both to the day the duo had created paradise and the day him and Ivy first met. And to think they haven’t done all this sooner, this whole idea only began a year ago, yet it still feels like it was only yesterday.

It had only been a few days since he and Ivy first evolved, he was now a dewott and Ivy was now a servine. Ivy had suddenly called him to paradise at night as it had become much more festive with everyone in town and paradise enjoying themselves. Various food

made from the crops they've been farming being sold to the people. Alongside that, various carnival games were setup for kids and couples as they played to get some of the stuffed toys setup on display. Most importantly to him, everyone was enjoying themselves, forgetting any past grievances and bitterness they may have had as they had celebrated, somewhat like a family that had finally reconnected after so long.

"Hope you like it, partner. Hafta say, it was a pain in the tail to get this going without you noticing" A girl-ish voice said from behind him to which

he turns to see his servine partner, Ivy. He has a scar across his left eye as its iris greyed out slightly after it became blind after the ambush back then as well as a similar dark red bandana with an adventurer's badge to his wrapped at the base of his now long neck to cover up some more scars he gained from said attack. Most of the other scars from the attack fading each time the grass reptile shed his skin. He brings in a wooden bench made by Gurrdurr being held up in the air his vines, coming from his neck. He sets down the bench to face the rest of Paradise's festival as he pats the seat right next to him, signalling the dewott to sit beside him, which he does.

"...Its everything I dreamed of. People finally connecting with each other again, no one is wary or suspicious of anyone. I can't believe you did it, Ivy." Maruki said as tears of happiness go down his face.

"WE did it. Its your dream, and you work far harder than I do." Ivy added.

"Says the one who barely sleeps at night managing Paradise. I'm still not gonna let go how it took the entire team practically begging you to rest for you to finally settle down and at least take a nap." Maruki said earning an short and embarrassed laugh out of the overworked servine.

"But thank you, I couldn't have done any of this without you Ivy. I am kinda sad that this won't happen again, though" Maruki added.

"Oh? And what made you think that? Alongside the festival now, we got a nice arrangement with the peeps here in paradise to let us do

this every year. After all, it is the day paradise was made and the day we first met." Ivy smugly replied before looking to his partner, the dewott now crying profusely as even his nose was leaking.

"IVY YOU'RE THE BEST PARTNER I GUY COULD EVER ASK FOR!" Maruki shouted out as he practically tackled Ivy into the big hug on the floor, the grass snake pokemon yelping from the tackle, both parties happily laughing together now.

"There's one more thing." Ivy said as the sound of a fire blast was launched in the distance, the blue fireball soaring in the sky before exploding proudly into the air in the shape of a star.

"Close your eyes." Ivy commanded.

"Uhh.. Why?" Maruki asked, prompting a small blush out of his partner.

"Just do it!" Ivy shouted out.

"Okay! Okay…" Maruki said as he followed and closed his eyes, still unsure of what else his partner has in store.

The sound of the multiple fire blasts being fired off as fireworks in the distance can be heard, still waiting for his partner to do anything. Suddenly something touched his lips which immediately caused him to open his eyes in surprise and see what was going on. His partner lying underneath him, leaned up and kissed him as his eyes were closed, Internal fireworks in Maruki's head exploding into what felt like billions of emotions from the kiss. His eyes slowly closed again as he leaned further into the kiss before they both separated from each other, panting after what felt like an eternity.

"Surprise..." Ivy said as he looked to the now blushing dewott lovingly.

"Ivy... I-" Maruki tried to explain before a vine moved in and set itself on his lips to stop him from talking.

"You don't need to say anything partner. I needed to get this off my chest. I love you. Far more than anyone else." Ivy said as he and Maruki got back up from the floor and sat on the bench once more.

“I’m not the romantic type, so I’ll keep this brief. Back in the human world, my original home of Unova. The day I came to this world was also the day that I was dragged into an alley and beaten up by a bunch of people in weird knight getups saying they were doing it for the greater good. Since then, I practically hated everything since then as each day became bleaker and bleaker. ” Ivy said as his face and Maruki’s saddened.

“They took away my friends and I was left alone all over again. By the time I came to, I woke up falling out of the sky and you waking me up. From there, you gave me hope to believe in people again, believe in the world again, practically bringing me back from the dead. You gave me a reason to live again, how couldn’t I love you?” Ivy said.

“Ivy... I just want to say-” Maruki said before the vine once again pressed on his lips.

“No need to say it, I just wanted to get this out there. You don’t have to reply. Hell, you can just forget this ever happened and-” Ivy continued before Maruki grabbed and pulled the vine off his lips.

“DAMMIT! I LIKE YOU TOO, IVY! SO STOP INTERRUPTING ME JUST WHEN I’M ABOUT TO SAY IT!” Maruki shouted out loud, Ivy taken aback by this being the first time he’s seen Maruki this worked up about something.

“I said it before but, I never had friends growing up, nor did I have a family of any kind. Before I came here, I lived in an orphanage where everyone made fun of me for believing in my dream of a world where pokemon would stop fighting and work together, a world where everyone trusted each other.” Maruki said.

“You were the very first person to ever believe in my dream, you were the first friend I’ve ever made, and the very first family I’ve ever had. Without you, I wouldn’t have met everyone in Team Sanctuary, I wouldn’t have gotten this far in my dream of Paradise.” Maruki continued as both parties blushed harder.

“And without you, it just wasn’t paradise to me anymore. So right now, I don’t care what anyone thinks! Ivy, will you be my mate?”

Maruki asks resolutely as he grabs both of the blushing servine's leafy hands.

"Did ya really have to ask, Maru?" Ivy said as the two continued to lean on each other on the bench

Its been a year now since that very first confession. Heh, guess that shows him just how much time flies these days. He comes back to reality little by little as his blissful reminiscence was cut off by a sudden thought in his head. He never managed to give Ivy a date or something that could top the paradise festival. Every time that they went on a date, Ivy was always the one who planned it out and treated him, and he didn't do a damn thing! Its now their first year since becoming mates and he doesn't even have a plan! He's been nothing but a horrible mate to him!

No no no no! He can still salvage this! He can still give Ivy the best one year anniversary ever! He grabs the handle jutting out of the black shell on his left arm using his right paw as he pulls the pointed end out before he stands up on his hind legs and points it to the sky triumphantly.

"I CAN DO THIS!" Maruki shouts out triumphantly before he snaps back to reality once more.

The pokemon walking past their house towards Paradise stop and silently look towards Maruki after he suddenly stood up and started shouting to the sky. They continue giving him weird looks as he doesn't move even slightly since he shouted before they started to go back to their business. Maruki quietly moves back down on all fours again after placing the seamitar back onto his arm and making his way into Post Town while keeping his head down.

The small town was quietly peaceful, most of the residents were in Paradise preparing for the festival. The various stalls such as Kekleon's shop and Rampardos' box buster lie empty and locked tightly as they have gone to Paradise to help as well. It was now quiet enough to take in the calmness and relax after what happened earlier. Well, what's the worst that can happen after all that?

"YOU WANT ME TO WHAT!?" Ivy's voice shouted out from

Signora's Inn, startling the Samurott just when he calmed down.

Maruki moves over to the cafe and looks through the window to see the swanna Signora in the middle of the room talking to Hydreigon or Hydreigon as we liked to call him, as he floated alongside the now Serperior Ivy. The serperior still wore the team scarf and badge the same way, keeping it by the base of their neck inside their natural leaf-like collar as it fit the look better to him now that he no longer has any scars from what happened from that ambush back then but was still blinded in their left eye.

"Please reconsider, lady Swanna." Hydreigon begged

"Nope! I've made up my mind, after all that had happened in Glacier Palace and Bittercold, I thought it was high time I went back to exploring the world as an adventurer much like Virizion when she first came to town." Signora said happily before turning to Ivy.

"And besides, I wouldn't have finally decided on doing this if I didn't have anyone who could watch over this place in my stead. Ivy here has practically been running this place far better than I ever could all while running Paradise along with it." Signora reassured

"So don't fret about it! I'll be leaving with Virizion and the rest on their next big expedition so I'm still staying here 'till then." Signora added.

"But Signora what-" Ivy said before Hydreigon suddenly spoke up.

"But what about the food!?" Hydreigon asks as he floated closer to the ground as if to show he was on his figurative knees, begging Signora to stay, a look of pure worry plastered across his face. Ivy giving him a look of pure silent disbelief over the food of all things being his main worry.

"I'm sure Ivy can make it!" Signora happily reassured as both Maruki by the window and Hydreigon cringed hard from it, Ivy simply looked to the voice of life with a look of incredulity.

"...Please, reconsider" Hydreigon begged once more.

"OI!" Ivy angrily scolded the hydreigon before sighing out as a vine

popped out from his collar and pinched the bridge of his snout as he let out an exasperated sigh.

“You and Maruki will do great, Ivy. I’m sure of it.” Signora reassured as she looked towards the window.

“and speaking of Maruki...” Signora said before pointing towards the window prompting the serperior to notice the samurott quickly ducking down trying to hide from view, which would have worked had it not been for his horn still sticking out from the bottom of the window.

A devious smile forms across Ivy’s face as he slithers over to the window. Two of his vines slowly extending out from both sides his collar before grabbing the Samurott by the horn and turning him around while lifting him up into view once more. He pulls in the samurott enough to get his snout through the window before leaning over himself and kissing the samurott. Initially surprised by the sudden kiss, Maruki leans into it, only stopped by the window’s muntin keeping his head from going through further, as Ivy moves away from the kiss slowly while giggling lightly from how adorable he thought his companion was through the window.

“Well, good morning to you too, hun.” Ivy said as his partner was left by the window, Maruki’s snout slowly going out of view from the window in his little post-kiss catatonia.

The serperior lightly giggled to himself over how adorable his partner was as he made his way outside to check on his partner. Maruki gets up after finally recovering as he prepares to look up once more into the cafe before he felt the familiar leafy scales travel up his back. He turns to his left to see the Serperior beside him while smiling fondly at his partner eliciting a faint blush out of the samurott from the closeness, only to be suddenly lifted up by the waist by a pair of vines until he was back on his feet once more.

“It’s no fair doing it through the window like that” Maruki pouted while turning away from sly serperior.

“Well, you can’t expect me NOT to try to tease you when you do that. You’re reactions are just too adorable, you know.” Ivy replied.

“Oh! And by the way, we’re free for today, the festival’s preparations can be handled by everyone else since we gave them the plan. So for now, its just you...” Ivy said as he trailed his right hand up Maruki’s neck and lightly playing with his beard, his face heating up more and more, Ivy all the while moving to his side to whisper in his ear.

“...and me~” Ivy said as his hand reached the tip of his chin and moved away

“I was thinking of heading over to that new port town, I think they called it Noe town. Some travelers were passing by a few days ago and there’s apparently this really good cafe there thats... Uh... Maruki?” Ivy rambled before he looked back towards his strangely trembling partner.

“THATS IT! NO MORE HOLDING BACK! I’M DOING IT!” Maruki suddenly shout out, the serperior taken aback by his sudden outburst.

“...What?” Ivy asks, still confused over what’s going on with his partner.

His surprise still not subsiding as the larger ‘mon suddenly stood up on his hind legs and moved over in front of the serperior, His larger size casting a somewhat intimidating shadow over the smaller reptile. Maruki then suddenly picked up his partner and carried him in his arms in a bridal position, most of his coiled body now bunched up in the samurott’s arms as only a little bit of his tail and the upper half of his torso are not in his arms.

“M-M-Maru, we can talk about thiiiIIIIIIIIIII-!” Ivy said as he tried to calm down his partner before he suddenly began to run out of post town in full speed while carrying the bunched-up serperior.

“Oh! Ivy, Maruki. I was planning to ask you to-” Virizion said as she was about to enter town.

“CAN’T TALK! IMPORTANT MATTERS! GOTTA GO! BYE!” Maruki shouted as he ran past the now confused Virizion.

“... What was that about, I wonder?” Virizion asked, still confused over what had occurred, Emolga and Dunsparce soon following behind her.

“Ah, love…” Dunsparce said as if looking back to the two nostalgically.

“Like you’re one to talk, Dunsparse.” Emolga retorted as all three of them went into Post Town.

On the road outside of town as Maruki ran out at full speed, he did feel a little bad for not hearing out Ivy’s plan for what probably would’ve been a great date for the two of them, but he made up his mind, he was going to give his mate the best date he can possibly do... within the short time of now to wherever they’re going, he honestly didn’t think most of this through. Meanwhile the poor serperior is screaming at the top of his lungs as Maruki runs in full speed, all while he was trying to figure out what he did to earn the ire of his partner. It did feel rather nice to get carried in his strong and muscular arms, but he would still like to know what caused all of this.

By now, the two have absolutely no idea where they are. They both forgot their adventurers bags and by extension, their wonder maps as well. All they know is that they’re in a thick forest with large trees dotting the area to which Maruki has been literally charging through while running at full speed while Ivy tucked his head closer to the samurott’s neck, it did feel rather nice nuzzling up there. Before it all suddenly came into a halt as Maruki suddenly stopped in the middle of a small clearing. It was a small grassy clearing encircled by multiple trees, the space between the trees being thinner there than the rest of the forest, illuminating the clearing with a more comfortable level of sunlight. Now that he looked at it, he knew this place as well, it was still mostly the same as how it was back then.

“Huh, well I’ll be. Its where it all began...” Ivy said fondly.

“Uhh... Yeah! The place where a certain human turned pokemon fell from the sky and... all this, truly began. I found a pretty nice shortcut to get from Post Town to here without having to go through Ragged Mountain” Maruki boasted slightly while hoping Ivy would completely

forget the actual trip here, though the annoyed look Ivy gave him made it very clear that he wouldn't.

Both of their memories flashing back to a snivy somehow falling from the sky, the panicked oshawott shaking him up until he woke up with a fright, shouting in surprise before accidentally headbutting the 'mon on the forehead, knocking them both down. It was a fond memory often evoking laughs from the two and right now, was no exception as the two simply laughed about the memory fondly.

"Now then! Before we continue in our little trip down memory lane!" Ivy said happily with a bright smile on his face.

"Maruki!... Honey..." Ivy said before he quickly constricted himself around Maruki, his smile turning more and more menacing and strained.

His arms and legs were bound together by the serperior as his upper body raised up higher over the constricted samurott while he laid on the ground, increasing his presence further as the Maruki practically shrank under his shadow. While he was happy about the gesture, he was not exactly pleased over being carried off to Arceus knows where, especially since even he could tell Maruki didn't plan on coming back here. And he was going to make it known to him.

"Dear, would you mind telling me why I SHOULDN'T constrict you until your insides turn into toothpaste?" Ivy asked as he gives an angry strained smile towards his partner.

"... Because you love me?" Maruki replies as he smiles back nervously.

"Hahaha! Being cute won't save you." Ivy retorted as his grip on Maruki got slightly tighter.

"I... I...I wanted to give you a good date..." Maruki relented as he looked away from Ivy, his grip noticeably weakening around him.

"Hun, if you wanted a date we could've just gone over to Noe town like we planned." Ivy said as his angry smile from earlier practically disappeared into a sad apologetic look.

“I know! But, every time we go on a date you planned it out, paid for it, and even worked hard for it. I mean, look at the founding festival for paradise you gave me last year. I just... I wanted to give you something, to do something for you for once.” Maruki said as he got up after Ivy released him completely and his vines returned back into his collar.

“I... what good of a mate am I, if I can’t even do that much? What good of a partner am I if I can’t...” Maruki says as he sits down dejectedly.

“What good of a partner- Maruki... Are you still having nightmares of that time? Are you still blaming yourself for that? Please... answer me honestly.” Ivy said as he moved in closer to the samurott as he gave him a defeated nod.

“It wasn’t your fault. No one could have seen him coming.” Ivy said

“I know but... I just can’t help it. If I weren’t so scared then, you wouldn’t have gotten hurt as much, you wouldn’t have lost your left eye, and... and... Arceus, I’m pathetic... You’d probably be better off findi-” and just before he could finish, a swift strike to the face struck the samurott down to the floor once more.

“Don’t! Please... Don’t finish that line, Maru...” Ivy said angrily

Maruki looks up to Ivy and there he sees him more angry than he’s ever seen him before. It wasn’t like his usual anger that was more akin to someone scolding you. This was his emotions running free and without restraint as tears rolled down his face, heavy breathes one after another in the futile hopes of possibly calming himself down. This anger, even Maruki could tell that it wasn’t just directed at him, Ivy was also angry with himself for letting Maruki feel this way.

“Maru, you’ve already done so much for me. I told you before that I practically had nothing left to live for. But you found me, stayed with me, fought with me... You gave me a reason to live again.” Ivy said as more and more of tears went down his face, Maruki simply lying there in silence.

“You’ve made me the happiest I’ve ever actually been. All those dates, gifts, even the festival to celebrate your dream. To me, that’s barely even half of what you gave to me in return. Even if I would spend an eternity trying to pay you back, it wouldn’t even be enough to truly give back what you’ve given to me” Ivy practically shouted at the recoiling samurott.

“But it was fine to me! Don’t you get it!? Our relationship wasn’t some damn transaction! Its not some fucking competition! Its just! US!” Ivy shouted at him once more as he stood over the samurott, his tears now falling onto the larger ‘mon below him as Ivy’s gaze darkened more and more.

“It was just us being for each other... if you say I’d be better off with someone else, who would that even be? Who could possibly mean more to me than you... This place was only paradise to me because you were there, was it not the same for you?” Ivy asked causing the samurott to finally sit up.

“I’m... just gonna head back to Post Town, I... I need to clear my head” Ivy says as he begins to slither away.

Maruki, quickly getting up and grabbing the small leafy arms that laid on the sides of the serperior before they could even get that far to leave the clearing. He promised himself that no matter what, he’d refuse to let Ivy go, not again. He nearly broke that promise by nearly pushing him away. He pulled on their small leafy arms as he pulled the grass serpent with them to the ground, holding them close to his chest all the while.

“Maru! Get off me!” Ivy shouted as he tried to push himself away.

“NO!” Maruki shouted out.

“DAMMIT MARU, GET OFF!” Ivy shouted out.

“NO!” Maruki shouted out once more.

“LET ME GO, YOU IDIOT!” Ivy shouted angrily as he continued to tear up

“YEAH, I’M AN IDIOT! BUT I’M NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE

YOU, DAMMIT!” Maruki shouted back, their back and forth struggle continued for who knows how long, until Ivy eventually barely fought back, now simply resting there on his partner’s chest.

“I’m nothing without you...” Maruki declared sadly.

“No, you’re not... Even without me, you could’ve achieved your dream ten times over.” Ivy replied as he let himself cry on his partner’s chest while Maruki pet the back of Ivy’s head to comfort him.

“I don’t deserve you, Ivy...” Maruki said sadly.

“Nor do I, you Maru.” Ivy said back.

The pair’s fight ending just as quickly as it began, the two now letting the peace of the forest’s clearing take over as they both simply lied there before eventually falling asleep. By the time the two awoke, the dark blue hues of the forest and the stars now shining above with the moon told them how long they were gone, it was now already night by time the exit the dungeon. Maruki let go of Ivy as he promptly rolled off and lied right next to his partner.

“Sorry Ivy, for everything... guess I’m not so good at this whole ‘being mates’ thing am I?” Maruki said to Ivy while looking up to the night sky.

“I wouldn’t really say that.” Ivy said as he looked up to the sky as well.

“I thought I had to pay you back over this imaginary little debt we had.” Maruki said

“No you did not. You had nothing to pay back, after all.” Ivy said back.

“Arceus, I’m an idiot.” Maruki said as he hugged his partner close

“That, you are... But you’re my idiot and that’s what matters.” Ivy said as he leaned into Maruki’s chest further, eliciting a blush out of the samurott.

“Is it alright for me to continue being your idiot?” Maruki asked.

Ivy simply looked up and slithered his way up his chest. He moves his head up until his eyes met Maruki’s. The two stayed there in complete silence, letting the subtle sounds of the forest take over before they both leaned in slowly, eyes lidding, as they got closer until the pair’s eyes closed completely and they both lost themselves in their kiss. Ivy pulled back first, letting his partner lean back on the ground.

“Was that an answer enough for you?” Ivy asked as he smiled fondly at his partner.

“I might need a little bit more convincing.” Maruki said lovingly to Ivy as they kissed once more.

They both lost themselves into their kiss, the world practically fading away and tuning out for the couple, changing positions while they were at it. Maruki now stood above Ivy, arms to both of sides, as he let his body rest over the serperior’s, making sure support his body enough as to not crush his partner with his full weight. Ivy, meanwhile, let his hands roam across Maruki's chest, feeling and grasping around as he kissed his partner back.

Sometime during the kiss, Ivy’s forked tongue inadvertently poked at Maruki’s lips before he let it in to do the same to Ivy, their tongues exploring each other’s mouths ultimately ending with Ivy’s elongated tongue extending further into Maruki’s maw and dominating his tongue completely. The long appendage wrapping and coiling itself around Maruki's own tongue slowly making him lose focus until his arms accidentally dropped and let his full weight rest on the serperior momentarily, cutting the two off their trance as Maruki quickly got back onto his feet. Ivy's tongue slipping out of Maruki's mouth and back into his own while Maruki's tongue was left to loll out, their shared spit lightly leaking onto the serperior below him.

"Hah.... sorry, its a bit draining..." Maruki said while breathing heavily.

"No... hah... worries, hun. Just, maybe move to the side." Ivy instructed

Maruki rolls over to the side as he lied to the left of the serperior, Ivy in turn, lying on his side as well to see his partner out of his good eye. They lied there on the grass floor of the clearing, gazing into each other's eyes once more before they kissed each other again, Ivy's forked tongue entered his mouth once more while using it to bring Maruki's tongue into his. As Ivy continued to assert his dominance over his partner, Maruki, in turn, simply grabbed Ivy and pulled him in closer, arm now holding the back of his head as they kissed.

Ivy's tail rubbed itself against Maruki's crotch, feeling his sheathe and balls as his own twin lengths began to escape his cloaca. Maruki's legs wrapped around his tail as if to pull Ivy closer with each rub from his tail evoking a soft thrust out of his partner alongside a small moan as his pink slicked length grew little by little. Ivy quickly noticed this and decided to take advantage of it as he moved his bottom half more around Maruki's crotch, aach successive moan and small hump following a growing heat that emanated from his crotch. His bottom half moistened and slowed as it became more and more sticky to the touch. The two pulled away from each other once more, the string of saliva connecting them falling to the hay bed below as the two gaze into each other’s eyes once more. It was the first time the two of them ever let their make out sessions ever get this far and there was no way either of them were going to stop now. Both Maruki and Ivy wanted to show each other how much they loved each other while drunk off the lustful atmosphere.

Ivy was the first to break their eye contact as his gaze wandered. There he saw Maruki's length; it was a long partly flaccid pink pillar of flesh slicked in a thin gooey substance from its round flat head to its base. His own lengths were already fully erect yet Maruki's was still only at half-mast and already matched his in length and surpassed his width twice over. Each small twitch of Maruki's growing length catching Ivy's attention more and more, as he slowly slithered down until it was mere inches away from his face. He knew from asking Signora and Hydreigon that water types were usually supposed to be naturally lubricated in the sense but he wasn't exactly expecting to be THIS lubricated, it didn’t even seem like he needed to lube it up even more yet he couldn’t really help himself,

he wanted to taste him. He nuzzled himself on Maruki's shaft, unbothered by the viscous fluid sticking to the left side his face, as he took a whiff of his musk from the base of his cock, his tongue lolling out of his mouth with need for his partner.

"So big..." Ivy whispered.

"Wha? Ivy- Ah!" Maruki yelped.

Ivy ran his tongue up Maruki's shaft slowly, the meat rod getting harder as he slowly lapped at it with his elongated tongue, letting it slide up the underside of his shaft as it fully hardened in one long lick before reaching the tip and sucking up whatever amount of pre cum gathered there. Maruki simply let out one long moan throughout Ivy's first lick of his shaft before the forked tips of his tongue reached the head and lightly flicked it eliciting a sharp surprised yelp of pleasure out of the larger mon. The slight bitter and slightly sweet taste tempting the serperior to go for one lick after another as his partner quietly yet repeatedly moaned with each touch, his own lengths twitching in excitement with each of Maruki's moans from how much he enjoyed drowning his beloved partner in pleasure.

"Fuckfuckfuckfuck! Ah!" Maruki quietly muttered which made Ivy let out a small satisfied giggle over how cute his partner was as his tongue coiled around the tip while moving down slowly halfway down the shaft before moving up again to tease his tip.

He had to admit, it felt extremely arousing to hear just how much pleasure his partner was feeling, each twitch of his shaft after a quick and adorable moan out of the big and tough samurott practically awakened something inside him. Maruki tried to get up to try to stop Ivy from going too quickly only to be suddenly coiled and held down by Ivy's serpentine body. At least he was lucky that Ivy hadn't restrained his arms, even if he was still helpless under the serperior.

"Ivy... Ah!.... hah..." Maruki quietly moaned holding back most of his noises as he watched Ivy go down on him.

"Feeling good yet, Maru~" Ivy said with a devious smile, Maruki all the while continued to restrain his voice.

"We never got this...H-hah... far before... H-Ah!...How did you get... nngh!... this good, Ivy?" Maruki asked and Ivy retracted his tongue to answer him.

"Obviously, it helps that I'm a guy myself. That, and I asked Hydreigon for advice, you know how detailed his explanations can be~" Ivy says as he gently strokes the base of Maruki's cock with both of his hands, coaxing out more pre cum that leaked out from the tip.

Right, of course. Ivy was just about the only person in the continent who could actually withstand Hydreigon's infamously long lectures. By now, Ivy had just enough of tasting him. In the sense, he wanted the main course. He let out his tongue once more as the elongated appendage circled the head of Maruki's shaft, eliciting a moan out of him as he shuddered at his touch, licking up the pre that gathered there from his teasing. From there, Ivy placed his mouth over the head as he slowly enveloped entire head into his gaping maw as his tongue coiled around his shaft and began to move down in sync, his jaw unhinging slightly to accomdate his size while he continued to stroke the base with both of his leafy hands. Bobbing his head ever so slightly as he moved further down his shaft while moaning onto it, sending vibrations down the pillar of flesh that added to the already large mountain of pleasure for Maruki.

"Ffffuuuuuuccckkk!" Maruki moaned out as he simply pets the lower half of Ivy's serpentine body that coiled around his chest with his left arm.

As he lost himself in Ivy's ministrations, he felt something warm rub against his right arm and there he saw his chance to fight back, in the sense. Ivy’s twin tapered lengths standing tall and lightly twitching as Ivy went down on his cock. Maruki couldn’t resist the urge to tease Ivy back, no matter how nice he was and how much Maruki loved Ivy’s teasing deep down, even he had limits. Using his left hand, he pulled Ivy’s lower half to the left to uncoil the portion by his chest slightly to bring Ivy’s dicks into view, grabbing his tail and bringing it up to his head and bending it back slightly. Ivy’s lengths now pointed towards his chest as Maruki faced Ivy’s taint. Maruki brings it closer to his snout, taking in a deep whiff of his mate before he sticks out his tongue and licks up the puckering hole.

Ivy's eyes shot open as he moaned out in surprise from the sudden feeling of Maruki's tongue licking up his taint. His tongue moving around and encircling the edges, taking in long tastes of his partner before it pulled away slightly only for his snout to be pressed up against it and pushes his tongue in ever so slowly inside of him. Maruki all the while was enjoying himself as he thrust his tongue in and out Ivy's tail hole. Sure, his tongue was nowhere near as long as Ivy's but it got the job done of lubricating it thanks to his natural water-type biology as it more and more of his saliva coated his inner walls while it clenched around his tongue. Before he continued to push his tongue deeper into Ivy, he licked up his free right hand and grabbed onto both of Ivy's lengths and began stroking them together, frotting the twin lengths as he jerked it off and letting his pre leak onto his chest.

Ivy meanwhile was already losing focus as he serviced him, pausing at random intervals as Maruki rimmed him while stroking his cocks. The feeling of Maruki's tongue inside him was already pleasurable enough but adding both of his cocks getting stroked at the same time alongside how much of Maruki's length was stuffed down his throat, all of it was becoming far too pleasurable for him to last any longer.

"I can feel your dicks twitching here, Ivy." Maruki gloated playfully, Ivy stopping for a bit as he tried to think of a way to get back at him... Well, there was one way he could think of...

"If you're close, by all means, you can just co- OH SWEET ARCEUS!" Maruki suddenly shouted out, as Ivy suddenly pushed all of Maruki's length into his throat while he was talking.

"Gah! D-da-Ah!-mmit, Ivy!" Maruki said as he rested his head on Ivy's tail breathing heavily from Ivy's efforts as his throat tightened his on his cock slightly while a slightly cocky smile crept up Ivy's face.

Ivy began to lift his head up slightly, going halfway up the meat rod before slamming back down all the way to the base. Feeling every single vein and throb of Maruki's length in his throat as he did so, he was lucky that he could just unhinge his jaw like this or there'd be no way he'd be able to fit it otherwise. He repeated this process with

the slow ascent to the sudden descent down his rod all while two of his vines extended from his collar again, the right vine wrapping itself around his base to jerk him off while Ivy continued to get throat-fucked by him while the other trailed down to Maruki's taint, teasing and prodding at it slightly. Maruki's efforts in teasing Ivy's hole ceased completely, his jerks on Ivy's lengths becoming lazy and slow as he was practically just breathing heavily while groggily moaning on Ivy's folded up tail.

"Ivy wait! S-s-Ahn!-stop! I'm getting close!" Maruki pleaded weakly getting the serperior's attention as he pulled himself off the meat rod while his vine continued to stroke it, increasing its pace.

"Hm? Why? If you're close, by all means, you can just come for me, and me alo-" Ivy retorted with a smug smirk on his face before Maruki's legs suddenly pushed him back down onto his cock while locking him in place.

It was all getting too much for Maruki, the telltale twitches and throbs of his length, his palpitated breathing, and the slight increase in his length's already large size told Ivy that he was definitely close. As Ivy tried to pull up, he was suddenly pushed back down, Maruki's legs continuing to hold his down before he began to give slow but rough thrusts into Ivy's throat while he growled and grunted in pleasure from each consecutive thrust and hugged onto Ivy's bunched up tail for dear life.

The head of his cock began to grow in Ivy's throat before the shaft began to spasm, pumping out his seed in tandem with his thrusts into Ivy's throat, coming out in quick bursts and filling him with his pent-up love and lust for him as his seed flooded down into his stomach, biting at Ivy's tail as he came. It overflowed slightly, leaking out of the edges of Ivy's mouth as he swallowed it all down. Ivy meanwhile practically fainted for a moment as Maruki came, his eyes moving up to the top of his skull as more and more of his pent-up seed was released into him with no end in sight. By the time, Maruki finished riding through his orgasm, Ivy's body finally let go of him, uncoiling around his torso and Maruki did the same as he released his leg lock on Ivy's head.

"Oh fuck. Sorry about that, Ivy. Let me help you up" Maruki said as

he sat up and gently grabbed onto Ivy's head and slowly pulled his mate off his slightly deflating rod, moaning slightly as he lifted Ivy off him.

Ivy was still in a daze as Maruki's cum spilled out of his weakened throat and onto his crotch as he pulled him up and gently lay him to the side, his breathing labored and slowed, taking in deep breathes to regain some oxygen after what happened. Ivy, as he slowly regained some of his senses moves his upper body closer to Maruki as they lie next to each other, face to face once more.

"You... hah... okay, Ivy?" Maruki asked tiredly, Ivy closed his eyes and groaned slightly as he pondered the question.

"Your cock's way too big." Ivy said the first thing that came to mind flatly, his voice a little hoarse over the abuse of his throat before he suddenly coughed, Maruki looked away slightly embarrassed over how rough he was.

"Rough too…" Ivy continued.

"Sorry..." Maruki apologized, still looking away from his partner.

"Nah its fine. I knew your species apparently tend to get rough when mating." Ivy said

"Hydreigon's lectures covered that too?"

"Nope, already knew about the last part from reading a book on pokedex entries, hahaha." Ivy laughed weakly making Maruki smile a little

"The heck's a pokedex?" Maruki asked jokingly.

"Don't ask, just think of it as weird water continent tech that only impressionable kids or straight-up battle-hungry monsters could get their hands on." Ivy replied, his voice slightly becoming less hoarse.

"Heh, Aight." Maruki said as his smile began to fade slightly.

"You sure, you're not regretting... well, us?" Maruki asked as his mood turned sad once again, Ivy slithering closer and kissed Maruki

in the lips once more before Ivy pulls away with a smile on his face.

“Yeah, I’m sure, you dork.” Ivy said before suddenly coiling his body around Maruki once more.

“And I’m gonna prove it! I’m still up for another round... If you’re up for it that is.” Ivy said as his tail began to trail up Maruki’s length which began harden once more at his touch.

“You know I can’t say no to you, Ivy.” Maruki said

“Really? Just after you told me to stop when I was about to make ya cum earlier?~” Ivy said smugly.

“T-that’s different, Ivy! And you know it!” Maruki replied.

“Hahaha! true true. But please, do that every now and again, I don’t wanna feel like I’m forcing you into anything.” Ivy said as he leans his forehead on Maruki’s

“Don’t worry, I will.” Maruki said as he took the lead and kissed Ivy, his own tongue now prodding at Ivy’s lips before he let his own tongue out to bring Maruki’s tongue into him once more.

Ivy’s tail moved down mid tease as his cocks rested on both side of Maruki’s gargantuan length compared to his. The smaller cocks sandwiched themselves between Maruki’s as he rubbed his lower body on Maruki’s ever so slowly, frotting Maruki’s length with his own alongside his elongated body, Maruki contributing to the pleasure as he gave small thrusts during each slow rub. The two moaning into their kiss as they continued at this pace, before Ivy pulled himself away from the kiss and his lower half away from Maruki’s length, catching his full attention as his length stood tall without anything pushing it down to his body. His tail trailing up his dick once more as it positioned Ivy’s hole over Maruki’s head and letting rest over it, pushing it enough to tease the head but not enough to really push it in.

“You sure you’re gonna be alright, Vy Vy? I might... you know...” Maruki said, annoying Ivy slightly with the sudden use of THAT pet name he gave him long ago, but he let it slide as he kissed Maruki

on the cheek.

“I think it’d be fine either way? You were the one practically dining in on my tailhole earlier, so I think it’d be fine since you got like... I don’t know, all-natural water-type lube, I guess?” Ivy replied.

“Really? All-natural lube, thats the best you got? What am I? Some kind of bogus cure-all incense?” Maruki retorted.

“Oh, shut up! You know what I mean.” Ivy pouted.

“Okay okay, just take it slow, though. I don’t wanna hurt you.” Maruki requested.

“I know, I know, hun. I’ll need some help though” Ivy said as he leaned his forehead on Maruki’s before he put more effort into pushing himself down on Maruki’s length.

Ivy clenched his jaw slightly as he continued to press himself onto the plump round flat head of Maruki’s cock. The damn thing was already too big to really fit into his throat so what more with his much much smaller tail hole, even with the overly generous amount of all-natural lube Maruki provided... Okay, now that he thinks about it in retrospect, it does indeed sound a little stupid.

Maruki then held onto Ivy’s tail as he helped his partner pull himself further down while pushing his hips forward as the head of Maruki’s length bore itself into Ivy before the head fully entered him with a wet resounding pop.

“Hnngh! Gah! Ah!” Ivy moaned as his eyebrows strained and his left eye closed itself shut tight.

Ivy felt Maruki’s cock slowly slip deeper into him from its natural lubricant and Maruki’s earlier rimming. Maruki meanwhile was having a hard time keeping himself in control as Ivy’s walls wrapped his cock in a vice grip, but he had enough sense to move in and kiss Ivy who was still straining from the odd yet somewhat pleasurable feeling of his partner inside of him. He pulled away from Ivy’s forehead slightly before moving in to kiss his cheek, then his chin, and moved lower to his neck, kissing and nibbling at it gently as he

moved himself lower and forcefully pulling off his dark red scarf and badge to gain a better angle to bite onto him. Ivy was moaning all the while as he slowly got used to Maruki and relaxed while his marked him as his. His length dipped further into him, the entire top half of his length while Ivy's own length dribbled and leaked pre-cum onto Maruki's crotch as more of his cock entered him slowly, Maruki biting down on his neck hard as he got further in. Finally, Ivy managed to take him all as he reached the base of Maruki's cock which formed a small bulge over his crotch, feeling every single twitch and throb of the slick pink rod.

"Fuck....ah!.. hah... You're tight, Ivy... Mmngh... and warm." Maruki said breathing heavily as Ivy's walls contracted around him.

"I-Ahn!... A-aim to-oh... please, I guess?" Ivy responded, his right eye lidding slightly as his left remained shut and eyebrows still tensed, slowly getting used to the entirety of Maruki's length inside him before he began to slowly lift himself up.

Ivy began to lift his lower half, his inner walls holding onto Maruki's slicked cock for dear life which drew out a long moan out of the two as Maruki shuddered slightly at the feeling until it reached the head of Maruki's cock. Ivy looked down his coiled body and onto his lower half, leaking the viscous liquid that Maruki's dick was covered in as a few strings of the fluid connected his tail to Maruki's fur on his lower abdomen before he promptly brought himself back down onto Maruki which drew out a short but loud moan out of the two. Ivy's walls suddenly tensed at the sudden drop, his coiled body wrapping tighter around Maruki, while Ivy let out a shuddered moan, his lengths spurting out his load, one gooey string after another onto Maruki's stomach while Ivy continued to shudder and moan from his sudden orgasm. Maruki tensed at the tightening his wall's grip on his cock and his body grip on him but still smiled lovingly at his partner.

"Heh... Look, Vy vy...Nngh...No hands hahaha" Maruki said while grunting from the tightness of Ivy's walls.

"Oi, no Vy vy's, idiot" Ivy jokingly replied, drained from his sudden orgasm.

"Well, you did say I could still be your idiot so..." Maruki retorted.

“Thats right...” Ivy said as he lifted his lower half once more, his vice grip still keeping a hold onto Maruki’s length.

“You’re MY idiot... **Coil**~” Ivy continued as his body’s inner muscles suddenly tightened as the move activated.

Maruki throwing his head back in pleasure while his hands gripped onto Ivy’s tail tightly as Ivy’s already strong grip on his cock suddenly tightened further, Ivy shuddering slightly as well as the sensation became stronger. He lifted himself up slowly once again before he slammed back down just as promptly onto Maruki’s crotch drawing out a sudden moan out of his partner. He lifted himself again, barely reaching the head of his cock and settling for half of it instead as he pumped himself faster onto Maruki.

“Ivy! Agh! Slow Down! I don’t think I can hold myself back! Nngh! if you go that hard!” Maruki pleaded as his hips lightly thrusted in unison to Ivy’s slams.

“Then don’t~” Ivy said getting a surprised look out of his partner.

“I want... Oh! YOU to feel good now. So come on, you’re the big mighty samurott... Ha-Ah!... take what you want~” Ivy said with a devious and pleasure addled expression on his face.

“... Alright, Fine! I WILL!” Maruki grunted as his left arm suddenly grabbed onto Ivy’s neck before he could slam push himself down and proceeded to choke slam the serperior to the grass floor.

Ivy was laid flat on his chest before his right arm held his head down in place. He pulled himself back a little more until only about his head remained and angled his hips slightly before he suddenly pushed back into his tail hole hard, pulling out halfway before slamming himself down with resounding ‘plap’ as his thrusts became faster and more erratic. Ivy meanwhile letting continuous muffled moans underneath the samurott’s rough domination over him, feeling his shaft thrusting itself in and out of him, his heavy balls slapping onto his tail, and the fur his stomach rubs his twin cocks just right with each thrust. The stimulation becoming too much for him once more as he came again, his seed spurting out and spilling onto his lower half before it flowed onto the floor. Maruki all the while

having a triumphant smile on his face as he continued to thrust into his mate while he heard Ivy let out a louder muffled moan as he came underneath him, his left hand moving over to Ivy's own left hand and wrapping his hand around the back of his leafy palm letting Ivy hold on to the tips of his fingers.

"You like that, Ivy? You like how I fill ya?" Maruki asked triumphantly, Ivy merely giving a loud mix of a grunt and moan as a response as he continued to thrust into him hard but his pace slowing down slightly.

"Good. Because! I'M! GOING! TO! KEEP! FUCKIN'! YOU! TIL'! YOU! GIVE! ME! PUPS!" Maruki shouted, thrusting back into Ivy's tailhole hard in time with each emphasized word.

Even while Ivy's consciousness faded in and out in his pleasure addled state, he heard Maruki's shouts and even though he is male, a part of him got aroused at the mere thought of being bred by him and giving him a clutch of eggs, one after another. Maruki shouted some more but at this point Ivy could barely even process it, moaning absent mindedly while Maruki continued to breed him. He only really heared the wet slapping of his balls on his tail as his mind continued to focus on Maruki's shaft being thrusted into him, molding his inner walls into the shape of his cock.

Plap. Plap. Plap. Plap. Plap. It resounded throughout the forest as Ivy's tongue lolled out of his mouth while he drooled onto the grassy forest floor. But just before his consciousness fully fades, Maruki's hand leaves his skull before the leafy extensions on the top his head were suddenly pulled back hard, lifting Ivy's head slightly.

"Not much longer now, Ivy! Here it comes!" Maruki said as Ivy felt the head of his cock grow larger before the rest of his shaft grew slightly, spasming more much like earlier's blowjob.

"GET! PREGNANT!" Maruki suddenly shouted before he bit down on Ivy's neck as hard as he could while holding his partner up by the two leaf extensions on his head.

"AH! Ah! Aaaaaaahn..." Ivy moaned and panted as he feels Maruki's cock unloading his hot seed into his awaiting hole, a fire blast

firework setting off in the distance as the paradise's founding festival reached its peak as well.

One large load after another shooting deep inside him while he came weakly in unison, his coil on Maruki weakening enough for him to easily escape, if he chose to do so. He savored the sensation as Maruki's cock practically filled him to the brim and painted his walls white with his essence while his bulge from Maruki's cock began to grow slightly. His continued thrusts as he came, allowing for some of his semen to slip out, allowing it to leak down Ivy's tail and pool slightly in the floor below. After one last thrust, Maruki pulled out of Ivy slowly, stopping by his enlarged head as it refused to free itself from Ivy's anus. He removed his hands from Ivy upper half as his left held onto Ivy's lower half, his right held onto the base of his shaft and with one pull, he freed himself from his partner. He jerked his shaft slightly as he let out the last few spurts of cum onto Ivy as he slightly painted the weakened serperior below him with his seed before sitting down and lying on a tree behind him. His length now receding slowly shrinking back into his sheathe, his energy fully spent while he rests and marvel at his handiwork, per se. His partner simply splayed out onto the forest floor covered in cum while his tail hole gaped from his anal creampie as all of his cum oozed out onto the floor below, his twin cocks retreating back into his cloaca. Ivy's face having a happy and content look as he began to sleep, Maruki soon getting up tiredly and lying beside his partner kissing his forehead gently and holding him close to his chest to sleep alongside him.

Maruki would awaken, peacefully. Not a single nightmare had occurred unlike before, looks like he was finally over it all. He to see they were now back in their own cozy home, the morning light shining through as the two of them lied in their shared hay beds. Ivy waking up soon after, looking to Maruki and immediately kissing his cheek before looking back at him lovingly.

"Good morning..." Ivy said before a sly grin crept up his face.

"...Daddy~" Ivy said smugly drawing out a groan from his partner.

"Crap, you remembered that?" Maruki asked as he was reminded of his 'breeding' of his partner.

“How could I possibly forget your little proclamation of filling me with your pups~ Oh! or you shouting out ‘Get Pregnant!’ hahaha!” Ivy laughed, teasing his partner as Maruki covered his now reddened and embarrassed face with his hands.

“Oh nooooo.” Maruki groaned getting a small laugh out of the serperior.

“That said. Even if you didn’t plan for... hehe, that, bringing me back there to remember the day we first met is a pretty nice date, all things considered.” Ivy said as Maruki recovered from his earlier embarassment.

“Yuss!” Maruki quietly cheered as he pumped his left fist in the air slightly.

“And besides, I didn’t give you MY present yet.” Ivy said as the vines from his collar extended towards the table to the right of Maruki where their adventure bags and now both their scarves and badges rested.

Ivy pulled out their wonder map, bringing it over to Maruki before unrolling it and placed it between them.

“Here it is!” Ivy said as Maruki gave his partner a curious look.

“What? Your wonder map?” Maruki asked before he began to look it over.

“Well, remember how we didn’t get the new map after ranking up last week?” Ivy asked

“Uh yeah? I guess? We were taking a week off jobs to get materials for the festival though so it didn’t matter too much” Maruki replied while still looking through the map.

“Well, I had Pelipper ship the map back after saying there was a bit of a printing error... In hindsight, probably wasn’t the best move considering HAPPI had to update all the wonder maps.... again.” Ivy said while looking away from Maruki who was simply cringing at thought of the headaches that would’ve caused.

“But! It was worth it! Because of this!” Ivy said as one of his vines pat itself on the center of the map where Post Town was supposed to be.

Post town was at best just another small town among the list of small towns in the mist continent so it wasn’t surprising that it was just a dot on the map to label a settlement for trade or rest. But what was surprising is that now, the town had its icon replaced entirely. Now it was a small drawing of post town, four small houses surrounding Signora’s Cafe and trees behind them all, and just beneath everything were the words “The Post Town and Sanctuary Paradise” to mark the place as a new prominent landmark in the continent.

“It took a lot of convincing, a few bribes to Pelipper, and don’t even get me started on the amount of back-and-forth letters I’ve been sending to HAPPI even before this and- Uh... Maruki?” Ivy ranted before looking to his partner who had been simply lying there, awestruck while looking at the map.

“You... okay, hun? I mean, if it was too much I could always just-” Ivy asked before Maruki pinned him to the bed and kissed Ivy deeply before pulling away from him to lean on his forehead.

“You’re making it really hard for me NOT to love you, Vy vy.” Maruki said.

“Maru, I told you no more Vy vy’s!” Ivy said while blushing over the pet name.

“Well, I personally think it’s a great nickname” Hydreigon said happily while floating behind Maruki, suddenly appearing behind him just right after Ivy blinked.

“GAH!” Ivy and Maruki shouted out together, both of them startled over Hydreigon’s sudden appearance as Maruki rolled off Ivy and back onto his side of the bed.

“Was I... Interrupting something?” Hydreigon asked.

“I... well... sorta?” Maruki answered.

“My apologies then, I had to check on you two after I found the two of you passed out in the forest. You missed out the festival and it worried the rest of the team but its good to know you two are in good spirits, especially after that fight you two had yesterday.” Hydreigon said as he began to float towards the door.

“Thanks, Hydrei- wait. How did you know we were fighting?” Ivy suddenly asked, Hydreigon freezing in the air, jumping slightly at the question.

“Oh! um... I’m the voice of life?” Hydreigon said with a fearful smile, Ivy and Maruki’s face growing redder by the minute after piecing together Hydreigon’s accidental revelation.

“YOU PEEPED ON US!?” Ivy shouted out before Hydreigon suddenly burst through the door of their house and flying into Post Town.

“I’M SORRY!” Hydreigon apologized as ran away

Ivy and Maruki quickly get up and out of bed to follow their fleeing friend. Ivy’s vines reaching over to their table to grab their adventure bags, their new wonder maps, their matching scarves, and of course, their badges. Quickly putting on their gear and getting ready to chase.

“He is so getting it when we catch him” Maruki said happily as he tightened his scarf around his neck.

“Yeah, I’m not letting him off the hook until he gets the same amnesia I got back when I first came here.” Ivy said while tidying up the bed with his tail and adjusting his and Maruki’s badges with his vines.

“Osu! Back to work then, Ivy?” Maruki said raising his fist to him as Ivy coiled his body around Maruki’s torso once more, his top half moving closer to Maruki to fist bump him back.

“Yep, gonna hafta ask you to carry me, though. Not too confident to move much after yesterday.” Ivy said.

“Then let’s get out there!” Maruki said as he and Ivy charged through

the door to give chase to Hydreigon as they shouted to the sky in unison.

“BACK TO OUR PARADISE!”